Amendment to the Specification

The paragraph starting on page 8, line 23 through page 9 line 7 is amended as follows:

When an error is detected, microprocessor 206 generates a control signal for switch fabric 204. The control signal configures an error cell generator 205 of switch fabric 204 to generate error cells for a specified set of the virtual connections supported by the ring network. In one embodiment, microprocessor 206 identifies the set of virtual connections by looking in a table. For example, microprocessor 206 can generate a control signal that instructs switch fabric 204 to generate error cells for each virtual connection that is continued by the ring interface module 200, i.e., the ring interface module receives cells from the ring and transmits the same cells back out onto the ring for transmission to a downstream network element. Alternatively, microprocessor 206 can generate a control signal that instructs the switch fabric to generate error cells for each virtual connection that is added to the ring network by ring interface module 200. Further, microprocessor 206 can instruct the switch fabric to generate error cells for some combination of virtual connections that are continued or added by ring interface module 200.